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BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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FIELD WORK OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

FOR several years it has been customary for the A. L. A. to designate representatives to attend state library association meetings when this has been requested. In addition to providing such representatives this year, as was mentioned in the November number of the Bulletin, sufficient field work has been done by the Association in the last few weeks, to be of interest.

Invitations were received by the Secretary of the A. L. A. to meet with library organizations in five southern states in December. All of them were accepted, except the invitation from the North Carolina Association, whose dates conflicted with those in Alabama.

At the opening session in Montgomery of the Alabama Library Association, which celebrated the fifth anniversary of its existence this year, the Secretary of the A. L. A. spoke on The library and the community. The second day he was invited by the principal and teachers of the Girls' High School to visit the school, where he spoke on library work as a profession and preparation needed for it. The third day's sessions were held at Auburn, the seat of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, whose handsome new

Carnegie library building was dedicated. The exercises were held in the college chapel and on request of President C. C. Thatch of the Institute, Mr Hadley spoke of the American Library Association and its interest in local library development.

The Chamber of Commerce of Birmingham, Alabama, had requested Mr Hadley to visit that city and hold a meeting in the interest of the Birmingham library, which although supported by subscriptions, loans books free to the people. The secretary of the A. L. A. was the guest of the library trustees and Chamber of Commerce at the Southern Club luncheon, December 3rd. State officers, the Mayor and members of Councils were present, as were representative business and professional men of Birmingham, when the Secretary talked of what a good public library means to the business interests of a city. In the afternoon, he attended a pleasant affair given by the Nineteenth Century Club and spoke briefly of library work. The public meeting held at night was in the Board of Trade building and was largely attended. The Superintendent of Schools presided, and after Mr Hadley's remarks on the place of the public library in the city,

there was informal discussion as to how to increase the scope and effectiveness of the Birmingham library. Ex-Governor Sims introduced a resolution which was adopted, calling for the passage of a general library law by the Alabama legislature. A resolution was adopted also urging the election in Birmingham of legislators who would stand as sponsors for such a law.

The Secretary of the A. L. A. was invited to inspect the library at the U. S. Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, and gave two talks in Atlanta, before the library training school of the Carnegie library.

Following the meeting of the Mississippi Library Association last October, notices were sent out for a conference of the executive and legislative committees of that Association. Mr Hadley was asked to attend the committees' conference in Jackson, and the time was spent in considering important library legislation in which the Mississippi Library Association is greatly interested.

Mr Hadley's visit to New Orleans followed the invitation of the Library Club of that city. There was no state library association in Louisiana but members of the club believed such an organization was badly needed. Letters were sent over the state and more than thirty library workers and trustees responded when the opening meeting was held at Tulane University. The Secretary of the A. L. A. was asked to assist in the meetings and discussions. Sessions lasting two days were held and such was the interest shown, that before the final adjournment, the Louisiana Library Association was organized, a constitution adopted and officers elected for the coming year. A meeting of the newly organized Association has been called to convene in Alexandria, Louisiana, early in the spring, prior to the meeting of the Louisiana legislature. Library legislation is needed along certain lines and the state association will endeavor to have some good library laws enacted.

In response to the request of Oklahoma librarians, Alice S. Tyler, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, was designated to represent the A. L. A. at the Oklahoma State Teachers' Association, held in Oklahoma City, December 27th. The question of a library commission had been under consideration, and the advantages from such a Commission with the comparative little expense involved were discussed. Letters expressing great appreciation of Miss Tyler's services have been received at the A. L. A. executive office.

MACKINAC ISLAND CONFERENCE

At the meeting of the Executive Board of the A. L. A. January 4, it was decided to hold the 1910 conference of the American Library Association at Mackinac Island, Michigan. This choice was made on condition that satisfactory hotel rates and accommodations could be obtained, and there is every reason to believe these will be secured.

Because of the number of American librarians who are planning to attend the International Congress of Librarians and Archivists in Brussels next August, the Executive Board had looked with favor on New York City as the next A. L. A. meeting place. It was found inadvisable to meet in New York this year however.

Librarians who know Mackinac Island best are the most enthusiastic over its selection for the next A. L. A. conference. It has unusual historical, topographical and romantic interest. Mackinac Island is about three miles long and two miles wide and lies at the juncture of lakes Huron and Michigan. In its small area there is great diversity of scenery, with harbors, caves, towering rocks and beautiful forests. The altitude of Mackinac Island rises to 318 feet above the surrounding waters and the mean temperature for many years has been 57 degrees in June, 65 in July and 64 in August.

The summit of the island is crowned by old Fort Mackinac built in 1780, and